

THE STATUS OF CERTAIN GENUS-GROUP NAMES IN THE
EUMENIDAE (HYMENOPTERA, VESPOIDEA). Z.N.(S.) 1689

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In H. de Saussure's well known monograph "*Études sur la Famille des Vespides*" (1852-1858) and in some later works on the same subject this author proposed a considerable number of names for groups of species which he designated by the term "division". In most cases these divisions formed the primary subdivisions of a genus, and the names thus proposed must be considered to have the status of subgeneric names according to Article 42(d) of the Code, and they should be treated accordingly.

However, for two genera of solitary wasps (Eumenidae) de Saussure created a rather complex classification, in which the primary subdivisions were subgenera, which he subdivided into groups of lower rank (also called "divisions"). In some cases the latter groups were even subdivided again.

It appears that according to the Code the names applied to the secondary or lower subdivisions of the genus cannot be regarded as having been validly proposed. Nevertheless these names have been used or at least recorded in the literature; most of them have been raised to subgeneric or generic rank by later authors, and it is not astonishing that there has arisen a certain amount of confusion concerning the questions of authorship and date of publication of these names.

The pertinent data about the names which present nomenclatorial difficulties are as follows:

1. Genus *Odynerus* Latreille, 1802.

The classification given by H. de Saussure in 1852-3 (*Ét. Fam. Vesp.* 1) is as follows:

p. 123 subgenus *Synnorphus* Wesmael (not subdivided)

p. 126 „ *Ancistrocerus* Wesmael (divisions I-IV)

p. 151 „ *Leionotus* Saussure (divisions I-V)

p. 217 „ *Oplopus* Wesmael (divisions I and II)

Within these subgenera, the following names have been proposed by H. de Saussure.

A. Subgenus *Ancistrocerus* Wesmael.

Subancistrocerus Saussure, 1855, *Ét. Fam. Vesp.* 3 : 206, for division I (1852) of the subgenus.

Stenancistrocerus Saussure, 1863, *Mém. Soc. Phys. Hist. Nat. Genève* 17 : 216, for a new division of the subgenus, said to correspond to parts of division II of 1852.

Pseudodynerus Saussure, 1855, l.c. : 220, for a new division of the subgenus, said to correspond with group B2 of division II of 1852.

Ancistroceroides Saussure, 1855, l.c. : 221, for division III (1852) of the subgenus.

Hypancistrocerus Saussure, 1855, l.c. : 222, for a new division of the subgenus.

B. Subgenus *Leionotus* Saussure, 1852-3 (= *Odynerus* s. str.; Saussure, 1855 : 223).

Parodynerus Saussure, 1855, l.c. : 245, for division I (1852) of the subgenus.

Hypodynerus Saussure, 1855, l.c. : 225, 250, for division II (1852) of the subgenus.

Epsilon Saussure, 1855, l.c. : 229, 252, for division III (1852) of the subgenus.

Antodynerus Saussure, 1855, l.c. : 242, 287, for division V, subdivisions IA and IB (1852) of the subgenus.

Antepipona Saussure, 1855, l.c. : 244 (1856 : 298), for division V, subdivision IC (1852) of the subgenus.

Stenodynerus Saussure, 1863, *Mém. Soc. Phys. Hist. Nat. Genève* 17 : 228, for a new division, said to correspond to part of division V (1852) of the subgenus.

Pachodynerus Saussure, 1870, *Rev. Mag. Zool.* (2) 22 : 56, for a new division of the subgenus.

C. Subgenus *Oplopus* Wesmael (= "*Epipona* Shuckard"¹; Saussure, 1856 : 302).

Pseudepipona Saussure, 1856, l.c. : 309, for a new division of the subgenus.

All the names listed above have been recorded as names of subgenera of the genus *Odynerus* Latr. by Dalla Torre, 1894 (*Cat. Hym.* 9 : 49, 50).

2. Genus *Alastor* Lepeletier, 1841.

In the first volume of his "Études" H. de Saussure (1853 : 249) grouped the species of this genus in three unnamed divisions, the first of which was further subdivided. In the supplement to this work (*Études* 3, 1856 : 327-328) the genus was divided as follows:

A. Subgenus *Alastoroides* Saussure, 1856 : 327, consisting of the divisions:

1. *Paralastoroides* Saussure, 1856 : 328 (one Australian species, *A. clotho* Lep.),

2. the hypothetical division *Antalastoroides* Saussure, 1856 : 328 ("Encore aucun représentant"), and

3. *Hypalastoroides* Saussure, 1856 : 328 (one South-American species).

B. Subgenus *Alastor* s. str., consisting of the divisions:

1. *Paralastor* Saussure, 1856 : 328 (examples: three Australian species mentioned),

2. *Antalastor* Saussure, 1856 : 328 (containing three Old World species), and

3. *Hypalastor* Saussure, 1856 : 328 (containing three American species).

As in the case of the divisions of the subgenera of *Odynerus* Latr. Dalla Torre (1894 : 109) recorded these groups as subgenera of the genus *Alastor*, and likewise there may be doubt about the authorship of the divisional names.

¹ *Epipona* Shuck. sensu Saussure, 1856, is an incorrect spelling of *Epipone* Kirby & Spence, 1815, and the authorship is erroneously ascribed to Shuckard. Moreover the name is an invalid homonym of *Epipone* Latreille, 1804.

H. de Saussure himself has not designated type-species for any of his infra-subgeneric groups, but subsequent authors, using these names for genera or subgenera, have taken this step for the majority of the groups. Generally they have attributed the authorship of the names under discussion to de Saussure, but if the provisions of the Code are strictly applied, it can be defended that the names have not become available until Dalla Torre raised them to subgeneric rank.

After careful consideration of the various aspects of this problem, I have come to the conclusion that it would be preferable to follow the first course and to regard the divisional names enumerated above as available from their first date of publication by H. de Saussure to whom the authorship should be attributed.

In support of this view it may be stated that:

(1) The double level classification within these genera, at present not permitted by the Code, was in de Saussure's time a logical solution for the problem of a very large genus in which "l'impossibilité de trouver des caractères tranchés, et par suite d'établir des divisions régulières" (Saussure, 1852, l.c. : 120) forced the author to accept more or less arbitrary groups. In the case of the unwieldy genus *Odynerus* he did not want to take the responsibility for raising Wesmael's subgenera to generic rank, a step which he would perhaps have been forced to take if he had known that future generations would create rules resulting in making his divisional names unavailable. The results of his valuable pioneering work on the taxonomy of these wasps are best acknowledged by accepting his names.

(2) Attributing the names to Dalla Torre would be unjustified, because this author did no more than enumerate them under the heading "Subg." Anyone interested in the question to what group any of the names has been or can be applied must consult the taxonomic papers of H. de Saussure.

(3) Since de Saussure's works were widely used, the possibility exists that some author between 1855-1870 (when the infra-subgeneric names were published) and 1894 (when Dalla Torre gave these names subgeneric rank) may, intentionally or unintentionally, have used one of de Saussure's names in a subgeneric or generic sense. Such actions, if recognized, might have the result that a species totally different from the one now so considered would have to be accepted as the type of the subgenus. Evidently this would lead to considerable confusion.

A special problem is presented by the name "*Euodynerus*" first used by Dalla Torre, 1904, *Gen. Ins.* 19 : 38. This is one of a series of names proposed by this author for certain groups of Eumenidae by adding the prefix *Eu-* to the existing generic name (*Eualastor*, *Euancistrocerus*, *Euepipona*, etc.), and meant to indicate the nominate subgenus of each of these genera. Most of these names are superfluous and invalid, being isogenotypic with the corresponding generic names.

However, the name *Euodynerus* was proposed for a section (II) of division III of de Saussure's subgenus *Leionotus*, 1852, and since this group does not include the type-species of *Odynerus*, a type-species for *Euodynerus* Dalla Torre had to be

selected from the species contained in the above mentioned section of *Odynerus*, enumerated by de Saussure, 1852, on pp. 177–199 (nrs. 69–99). This was done by Blüthgen (1938, *Konowia* 16 (1937) : 277), who selected as such the palaearctic species *Vespa dantici* Rossi, 1790 (species no. 90, de Saussure, 1852 : 192), even though this act was carried out in a somewhat peculiar way. Actually *Vespa dantici* was selected here as the type of “*Euodynerus* n. gen.”, but since Blüthgen simultaneously considered “*Euodynerus* (Dalla Torre) s. str.” to be the nominate subgenus of this group, in my opinion the type designation automatically refers to the group indicated by Dalla Torre.

Since 1938 Blüthgen has regarded himself as the author of *Euodynerus*, and in 1961 (*Abh. Deutsch. Akad. Wiss. Berlin, Klasse für Chemie, Geologie und Biol.*, 2 : 234) he has again stated explicitly that *Euodynerus* Dalla Torre should not be considered available.

I am inclined to disagree with Blüthgen that this is the best solution of the problem. Firstly the name *Euodynerus* Dalla Torre should be considered in the light of the nomenclatorial difficulties raised by the complex classification of de Saussure, for Dalla Torre's treatment of the “genus” *Odynerus* is no more than a summary of de Saussure's work. Therefore, if we accept the infra-subgeneric names of de Saussure, we should also do so for the equivalent name(s) of Dalla Torre. Further, it is evident that *Euodynerus* Blüthgen is not a new concept, but merely a redefinition of the group originally named by Dalla Torre. And finally, Blüthgen was not the first to use Dalla Torre's name, for in 1913 J. Brèthes described a new South American wasp as *Odynerus* (*Euodynerus*) *asperatus* n. sp. (*An. Mus. Nac. Hist. Nat. Buenos Aires* 24 : 113). It can be argued that Brèthes thus raised *Euodynerus* (Dalla Torre) to subgeneric rank and should figure as the author of this name. This certainly appears less desirable than ascribing the name to the author who first proposed it, even though he did this in a most unfortunate way. In any case, Blüthgen's *Euodynerus* must be regarded as an invalid homonym.

The best solution of the problem to me seems to have the infra-subgeneric names listed above validated under the plenary powers of the Commission, with as types those species which are currently regarded as such¹. In the best interest of nomenclatorial stability and uniformity the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is therefore requested:

1. to use its plenary powers

(a) to declare as available from their date of publication by H. de Saussure, and with the type-species indicated below, the following names:

- (i) *Ancistroceroides* Saussure, 1855, *Ét. Fam. Vesp.* 3 : 221. Type-species: *Odynerus cruentus* Saussure, 1855.
- (ii) *Antalastor* Saussure, 1856, *Ét. Fam. Vesp.* 3 : 328. Type-species: *Alastor atropos* Lepeletier, 1841. Objectively synonymous with *Alastor* Lepeletier, 1841.
- (iii) *Antepipona* Saussure, 1855, *Ét. Fam. Vesp.* 3 : 244. Type-species: *Odynerus silaos* Saussure, 1853.

¹ So far as I know, no type-species has been designated previously for *Antalastor*, *Antepipona*, *Epsilon*, *Hypolastor* and *Poralastor*.

- (iv) *Antodynerus* Saussure, 1855, *Ét. Fam. Vesp.* 3 : 242, 287. Type-species: *Vespa flavescens* Fabricius, 1775.
 - (v) *Epsilon*: Saussure, 1855, *Ét. Fam. Vesp.* 3 : 229, 252. Type-species: *Odynerus dyscherus* Saussure, 1852.
 - (vi) *Hypalastor* Saussure, 1856, *Ét. Fam. Vesp.* 3 : 328. Type-species: *Alastor angulicollis* Spinola, 1851.
 - (vii) *Hypalastoroides* Saussure, 1856, *Ét. Fam. Vesp.* 3 : 328. Type-species: *Alastor brasiliensis* Saussure, 1856.
 - (viii) *Hypancistrocerus* Saussure, 1855, *Ét. Fam. Vesp.* 3 : 222. Type-species: *Odynerus advena* Saussure, 1855.
 - (ix) *Hypodynerus* Saussure, 1855, *Ét. Fam. Vesp.* 3 : 225, 250. Type-species: *Odynerus chilensis* Lepeletier, 1841, a subjective junior synonym of *Odynerus humeralis* Haliday, 1836.
 - (x) *Pachodynerus* Saussure, 1870, *Rev. Mag. Zool.* (2) 22 : 56. Type-species: *Odynerus californicus* Saussure, 1870.
 - (xi) *Paralastor* Saussure, 1856, *Ét. Fam. Vesp.* 3 : 328. Type-species: *Alastor tuberculatus* Saussure, 1853.
 - (xii) *Paralastoroides* Saussure, 1856, *Ét. Fam. Vesp.* 3 : 328. Type-species: *Alastor clotho* Lepeletier, 1841. Objectively synonymous with *Alastoroides* Saussure, 1856, l.c. : 327 (type designated by Ashmead, 1902, *Canad. Ent.* 34 : 210), which name should be used since it was proposed as a sub-generic name.
 - (xiii) *Parodynerus* Saussure, 1855, *Ét. Fam. Vesp.* 3 : 245. Type-species: *Odynerus bizonatus* Boisduval, 1833, a subjective junior synonym of *Vespa bicincta* Fabricius, 1781.
 - (xiv) *Pseudepipona* Saussure, 1856, *Ét. Fam. Vesp.* 3 : 309. Type-species: *Odynerus herrichii* Saussure, 1856.
 - (xv) *Pseudodynerus* Saussure, 1855, *Ét. Fam. Vesp.* 3 : 220. Type-species: *Odynerus luctuosus* Saussure, 1855.
 - (xvi) *Stenancistrocerus* Saussure, 1863, *Mém. Soc. Phys. Hist. Nat. Genève* 17 : 216. Type-species: *Odynerus atropos* Lepeletier, 1841.
 - (xvii) *Stenodynerus* Saussure, 1863, *Mém. Soc. Phys. Hist. Nat. Genève* 17 : 228. Type-species: *Odynerus chinensis* Saussure, 1863.
 - (xviii) *Subancistrocerus* Saussure, 1855, *Ét. Fam. Vesp.* 3 : 206. Type-species: *Odynerus sichelii* Saussure, 1855.
- (b) to declare as available from its date of publication by C. G. de Dalla Torre and with the type-species indicated below, the following name, originally proposed as name for a group of infra-subgeneric rank:
- Euodynerus* Dalla Torre, 1904, *Gen. Insect.* 19 : 38. Type-species: *Vespa dantici* Rossi, 1790.

2. to place on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology:

α the names listed in par. 1a above under (i), (iii)–(xi), (xiii)–(xviii),

β the generic name *Alastor* Lepeletier, 1841, *Hist. Nat. Ins. Hym.* 2 :

- 668 (type-species *Alastor atropos* Lepeletier, 1841, designated by Ashmead, 1902, *Canad. Ent.* **34** : 210).
- γ the generic name *Alastoroides* Saussure, 1856, *Ét. Fam. Vesp.*, **3** : 327 (type-species *Alastor clotho* Lepeletier, 1841, designated by Ashmead, 1902, *Canad. Ent.* **34** : 210).
3. to place on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic names in Zoology:
- α *Antalastor* Saussure, 1856, an objective junior synonym of *Alastor* Lepeletier, 1841;
 - β *Paralastoroides* Saussure, 1856, an objective synonym of *Alastoroides* Saussure 1856, here rejected in favour of the latter name.
4. to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology:
- advena* Saussure, 1855, as published in the binomen *Odynerus advena* (type-species of *Hypancistrocerus* Saussure, 1855);
 - angulicollis* Spinola, 1851, as published in the binomen *Odynerus angulicollis* (type-species of *Hypalastor* Saussure, 1856);
 - atropos* Lepeletier, 1841, as published in the binomen *Alastor atropos* (type-species of *Alastor* Lepeletier, 1841);
 - atropos* Lepeletier, 1841, as published in the binomen *Odynerus atropos* (type-species of *Stenancistrocerus* Saussure, 1863);
 - bizonatus* Boisdual, 1833, as published in the binomen *Odynerus bizonatus* (type-species of *Parodynerus* Saussure, 1855);
 - brasilensis* Saussure, 1856, as published in the binomen *Alastor brasiliensis* (type-species of *Hypalastoroides* Saussure, 1856);
 - californicus* Saussure, 1870, as published in the binomen *Odynerus californicus* (type-species of *Pachodynerus* Saussure, 1870);
 - chilensis* Lepeletier, 1841, as published in the binomen *Odynerus chilensis* (type-species of *Hypodynerus* Saussure, 1855);
 - chinensis* Saussure, 1863, as published in the binomen *Odynerus chinensis* (type-species of *Stenodynerus* Saussure, 1863);
 - clotho* Lepeletier, 1841, as published in the binomen *Alastor clotho* (type-species of *Alastoroides* Saussure, 1856);
 - cruentus* Saussure, 1855, as published in the binomen *Odynerus cruentus* (type-species of *Ancistroceroides* Saussure, 1855);
 - dantici* Rossi, 1790, as published in the binomen *Vespa dantici* (type-species of *Euodynerus* Dalla Torre, 1904);
 - dyscherus* Saussure, 1852, as published in the binomen *Odynerus dyscherus* (type-species of *Epsilon* Saussure, 1855);
 - flavescens* Fabricius, 1775, as published in the binomen *Vespa flavescens* (type-species of *Antodynerus* Saussure, 1855; subjective senior synonym of *Odynerus punctum* Fabricius sensu Saussure, 1853 (misidentification) = *Odynerus punctum* Saussure, 1855 (invalid secondary homonym), an originally included species);
 - herrichii* Saussure, 1856, as published in the binomen *Odynerus herrichii* (type-species of *Pseudepipona* Saussure, 1856);
 - luctuosus* Saussure, 1855, as published in the binomen *Odynerus luctuosus* (type-species of *Pseudodynerus* Saussure, 1855);

- sichelii* Saussure, 1855, as published in the binomen *Odynerus sichelii* (type-species of *Subancistrocerus* Saussure, 1855);
silaos Saussure, 1853, as published in the binomen *Odynerus silaos* (type-species of *Antepipona* Saussure, 1855);
tuberculatus Saussure, 1853, as published in the binomen *Alastor tuberculatus* (type-species of *Paralastor* Saussure, 1856).